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MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

AND THE

UNIVERSITY OF HALLE.

REPORT OF THE BI-CENTENARY AT HALLE

BY

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The following report was recently presented to the Board of Trustees of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa.:

ALLENTOWN, PA., Jan. 22, 1895.

To the Board of Trustees of Muhlenberg College:

Gentlemen:—In view of the fact that your honorable body, at its last annual meeting, granted me leave of absence to visit Europe, and authorized me "to represent Muhlenberg College at the bi-centennial of the institutions at Halle and present the congratulations of this institution;" and also furnished me letters of commendation to institutions of learning which I might wish to visit, I deem it my duty respectfully to submit the following report:

During the month of July, while the universities were still in session, I visited those at Berlin, Halle, Leipzig and Jena, in Germany, in the order named, witnessed their active operations and heard some of their most eminent professors lecture. I was most cordially received at all these institutions by their rectors and the professors whose acquaintance it was my privilege to make, and many of whom I had the pleasure of meeting again at the jubilee celebration at Halle during the first week in August.

At Leipzig, through the courtesy of Rector Wislicenus and the American Professor Gregory, the eminent Greek textual critic and the successor of Tischendorf, I enjoyed the rare privilege of a personal meeting with the venerable Professor, Dr. C. E. Luthardt, at his own palatial residence. The impressions left on my mind by that interview are indelible,

and his earnest and impressive benediction at parting will be an inspiration to me as long as I live.

In the course of my travels, it was my privilege to visit, in addition to the universities mentioned above, many other institutions of different ranks and types, during their vacation, some of which were: The school, which was attended by Luther as a boy at Eisenach, the cloister and university at Erfurt and at Wittenberg; the institutions and historical and scientific collections at Nuremberg, Augsburg, Ulm and Dresden; the universities at Bonn, Heidelberg, Munich and Vienna, in Germany; the universities at Zurich, Geneva and Basel, in Switzerland, as well as the Mission Institute at the last place; the university at Brussels in Belgium, the Sorbonne in Paris, the University of London, and the British Museum, Eton College at Windsor, and the University of Oxford, England. At all these places I saw much that will be of permanent interest and value to me in my work.

In my preliminary visit to Halle, in July, I was cordially received by the rector, Professor Beyschlag, and the chief officials of the university, and presented my credentials as the representative of Muhlenberg College at their jubilee. These were placed in the archives of the secretary. The document, in the German language, in addition to the certification of my appointment and the object of my mission, also contained a suitable address of congratulation.

This private visit and presentation of congratulations, together with the official document in academic form in the Latin language, which was prepared after I left home and was to be forwarded in due time, were intended to serve the purpose of my mission in case I should be unable to return for the public celebration. During my visit the authorities courteously afforded me every opportunity of acquainting myself with the operations of the university.

At this time I met Dr. Fries, the director or head of the Francke Institutions, where Henry Melchior Muhlenberg taught. He took great pleasure in personally showing me the archives and every thing of interest in these extensive and

beneficent institutions, so important in the history of foreign missions, and especially in the planting and development of our Church in this country. After I had made the necessary arrangements pertaining to my mission with the authorities of the university, I resumed my travels, and had gone as far south as Nuremberg, when I decided to return to Halle and represent our college in person at the celebration, although it cost me a week of precious time and a tedious journey of five hundred miles over a route which I had previously travelled. I, however, regard my time and labor well spent. The official Latin document before mentioned had failed to reach me. Therefore, on my return to Halle, I at once called at the university, recovered the German document from the secretary and arranged to substitute it, temporarily, in the formal presentation of congratulations in the "Aula" of the university. It was agreed that the Latin document should take its proper place in the archives when it reached them.

I have recently received a letter from the secretary, informing me that it had been received and will be published in the forthcoming "Festbericht" or jubilee volume, a copy of which will be presented to us. With the document we sent a finely bound copy of our College Book as a jubilee gift, together with other printed matter which has been placed in the Royal University Library.

The celebration at Halle occurred on the 1st, 2d and 3d days of August, and concluded with an excursion to Wittenberg on Saturday, the 4th.

The city of Halle was arrayed in gala dress, its market places and streets, its public and private buildings, being elaborately decorated with bunting, greens and vari-colored electric lights. Its streets were thronged with visitors and citizens in holiday attire. On Wednesday evening, August 1st, Prince Albrecht, of Brunswick, the personal representative of the Emperor, arrived and was received at the depot by the authorities of the city and of the university, and escorted by a magnificent procession of military and civic bodies to his hotel, the "Stadt Hamburg."

Soon after the arrival of the Prince, Rector Beyschlag met the delegates from other institutions and countries at the same hotel for the purpose of arranging the program for the formal presentation of congratulations at the celebration over which the Prince was to preside on the next day. As institutions from all parts of Europe and foreign lands were represented, and the number of delegates was large, one speaker for the German institutions, Rector Weinhold, of Berlin, and one for all other lands, Professor Solferini, of Italy, were elected by the delegates to make the formal addresses of congratulation. The names of the institutions were then to be called and their delegates to appear before the Prince and Rector in person, and present their gifts and documents with their congratulations. This meeting had scarcely adjourned, when about two thousand students of Halle and other institutions appeared in torch-light procession, decked in the regalia and colors of the various student corps, and, after paying their respects to the Prince, paraded through the illuminated streets to the university grounds, where, after singing college songs and burning their torches, they disbanded. The festivities of the first day ended with a "Kommers" or social gathering in the "Reitbahn" of the university. The celebration of Thursday, August 2d, began at 9 a. m. in the Cathedral Church, where, after music of the highest order by a choir of 300 trained voices, the pro-rector of the university, Dr. Hering, delivered the festival sermon.

In this same church, two hundred years before, the university had received its charter from the elector, Frederick III., who seven years later (1701) became the first king of Prussia His coronation robes were presented to the university, and were worn by the rector at all the different ceremonies of the jubilee.

After the services in the church, the authorities of the university and the delegates, headed by the Prince and his staff, all in their magnificent uniforms and robes of offices, except the American delegates, who always appeared in the simple garb befitting the customs and institutions of their country,